

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING VERSION DECEMBER 14, 2009

The Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form must be filled out for every federally funded project where dirt will be turned, regardless of whether or not obvious farmland will be affected. So even a project proposing installation of a new sewer down Main Street in a developed urban area is not exempt. However, projects proposing only sliplining, CIPP, equipment purchases or planning & design are exempt. There is form NRCS-CPA-06 for corridor projects (i.e., lines) and form AD-1006 for sites (tanks, treatment plants, booster stations, well fields).

The good news is: it's easy.

Step 1: Fill out parts I and III on the form; don't worry that it says a federal agency should complete those parts—we're delegating you or your engineering consultant to be the Federal agency.

In the box in the upper right of Part I, where it says Federal Agency involved, write "EPA through IN State Revolving Fund"; if you're also seeking an Office of Rural Affairs grant, also write "HUD through the IN Office of Community and Rural Affairs"; if you're also using a Rural Development loan or grant, also write "USDA through Rural Development".

In Part III: Direct conversion takes active or fallow farmland out of production; **a sewer or water line in a farm field will have 0 acres direct impact**, but a structure, such as a water tower, booster station, well field or treatment plant, **will take some farmland out of production; use that acreage in the direct conversion box.**

For indirect conversion, if a line is going in farmland or down a road bordered by farmland or other undeveloped land, figure the acreage of a corridor 150 feet on either side of the line times the length of the line. Only use the 150 foot rule when a line is in farmland or borders farmland or other land which could be developed. Also include in indirect conversion (1) acres not being converted but that would no longer be capable of being farmed after the conversion, because the conversion would restrict access, and (2) acres planned to receive services from an infrastructure project as indicated in the project justification (e.g. highways, utilities) that will cause a direct conversion.

Step II: Send the form and a soils map showing the project routes and sites to: Lisa Bolton, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 6013 Lakeside Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46278; please don't give the form to your local NRCS agent. The soils map must show where your project's proposed lines, tanks, booster stations, lift stations, well fields and treatment plants will be sited. Don't forget the soils map and don't forget to draw the proposed project on it, even if the project is in the middle of a city. In your transmittal to NRCS, briefly describe the project.

Step III: NRCS will reply with their portions of the form filled out, including a determination about the effects of the project on prime/unique farmland. That is probably the last step in the process for most projects.

Sometimes the NRCS will reply saying your project will affect prime farmland and that parts VI and VII on the form must be completed. They will include instructions if that is necessary.

Return the form to NRCS after you've scored it and copy your SRF project manager with the scored form and the NRCS letter requesting it. NRCS will probably not reply in any way; if it does, please send SRF three copies of the response.

If you have questions about this process, or any other environmental questions, please contact: Max Henschen, Senior Environmental Manager, 317-232-8623; mhensche@ifa.in.gov.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request			
Name Of Project		Federal Agency Involved			
Proposed Land Use		County And State			
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS			
Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply -- do not complete additional parts of this form).		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %	Amount Of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %			
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	Name Of Local Site Assessment System	Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS			
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating			
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly					
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly					
C. Total Acres In Site		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland					
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland					
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted					
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value					
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)		0	0	0	0
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b))		Maximum Points			
1. Area In Nonurban Use					
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use					
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed					
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government					
5. Distance From Urban Builtup Area					
6. Distance To Urban Support Services					
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average					
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland					
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services					
10. On-Farm Investments					
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services					
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use					
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	0	0	0
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		160	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260	0	0	0
Site Selected:		Date Of Selection		Was A Local Site Assessment Used? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

Reason For Selection:

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request	4. Sheet 1 of _____
1. Name of Project		5. Federal Agency Involved	
2. Type of Project		6. County and State	
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		1. Date Request Received by NRCS	2. Person Completing Form
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form).		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Acres Irrigated Average Farm Size
5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: %	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %	
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS	

PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Alternative Corridor For Segment _____			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services				
C. Total Acres In Corridor	0	0	0	0

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland				
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted				
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value				

PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)				
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PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))	Maximum Points				
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15				
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10				
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20				
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20				
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10				
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25				
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5				
8. On-Farm Investments	20				
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25				
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10				
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	0	0	0	0

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100				
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	0	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260	0	0	0	0

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Reason For Selection:			

Signature of Person Completing this Part: _____ DATE _____

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor